

## American-Palestinian Doctor Recounts The Horrors He Witnessed In A Gaza Hospital

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason2Resist from Montreal, Quebec on November 10th, 2025. Today, we're very pleased to be joined by Dr. Dhiaa Daoud. Dr. Daoud is a Palestinian-American emergency medicine physician from Florida. His parents are from Gaza. And during the past two years of Israeli genocide in occupied Palestine, Dr. Daoud traveled to Gaza and served as a medical doctor there. He later volunteered to travel to Gaza on the Freedom Flotilla. In fact, that was this past month, October, and he was arrested and kidnapped by Israeli genocide forces in international waters. After spending three days in an Israeli dungeon, Dr. Daoud returned to his home in the United States. Thank you very much for joining us today.

**Dr. Dhiaa Daoud (DD):** Thank you, Dimitri. I'm glad to be here.

**DL:** So Dr. Daoud, on the website of the Freedom Flotilla, You're quoted as stating as follows, quote, "I was torn with the gruesome scenes of daily mass casualties in the emergency department filled with burnt and dead infants, children, and women, and the unimaginable level of suffering and destruction with unforgettable screams or sometimes watching them choking, giving their last breath, unable to perform basic resuscitations because of the lack of medical supplies and intensive care beds in the middle of the world's unconscionable silence. After I came back from my medical mission, I made a promise to never turn my back on my people and will stand by them to the end. I've therefore decided to come back breaking the siege," close quote. And those powerful and moving words you spoke them, I understand just before you embarked on the voyage to Gaza on the Freedom Flotilla. So I'd like to invite you, Dr. Daoud, as difficult as it may be to tell us in some detail what you actually witnessed when you were in Gaza. Where did you work? When were you there? And what did you see?

**DD:** So, yes, Dimitri, in March 2024, I went to Gaza through the Rafah Crossing. The Rafah Crossing is the only crossing that Gaza people have or was open at that time. And it was like one of the, I would say, the main streamlines where Gaza can actually have a little breath, just about enough so that they can live, I would say, just close to normal, like not even normal.

You know, the calories were counted, everything was counted as you all know. The genocidal regime calculates the calories of every single Palestinian that that everybody consumes and then accordingly they send a certain amount of trucks through that crossings from Egypt. At that time also the crossing was the only way that we can, us as medical doctors, go through in order to help our brothers and sisters in Gaza who have been inflicted by this gruesome genocide. This genocide is unconscionable. This genocide is one of the things that I don't think any in the entire history of humanity have ever experienced, in which all kinds of missiles, all kinds of firearms, all kind of destruction has been inflicted on the people of Gaza, including, killing, mass starvation, and at the same time torture by all kinds of means such as fear, intimidation, incarceration, all kinds of torture. We were watching on TV what happened over there the first months and we were like, God, this is crazy. This is something that no human has ever witnessed. I was honestly traumatized. I couldn't take it anymore. So I decided to go to Gaza and I basically emailed every single organization. Every single organization says that the spots were limited to only very highly specialties such as orthopedic in which most of the injuries were, where amputations happen, where major fractures happen and all of that. So there was a sharp and high necessity for these specialties. But then I kept insisting on going there because most of these injuries actually happen in the ER. And most of these injuries, like there's no doctors to really take care of them. And sure enough you know I was accepted by one of the organizations I went to Egypt and through the Rafah Crossing I went to Gaza.

It was one of the you know best moments I've ever had to go into Gaza and just a breath of air of Gaza and then touch the sand of Gaza. It was really emotional for me. And I went into the crossing and then the first thing I did was basically like I prostrated to God that I had the opportunity to go into Gaza. Although this was like one of the most dangerous trips besides the other trip to go there because you'll never know what happens and the Israeli genocidal regime is ruthless. Whether you're a doctor, or whether you're a journalist, or any kind of profession, they target you because you are a source of life and they want to end the source of life in Gaza. So I went there in a bus and then while we're going in the bus you can see the destruction that has been inflicted in the middle of Gaza and then we went to Rafah and then you can see the bombings in the streets left and right and like exactly like Jared Kushner has said: "It's like a nuclear bomb has been dropped on it". So we went there into the hospital and we were shocked by the scene. The hospital was filled with tents surrounding it like on the horizon. The entire hospital was filled with refugees, approximately 35,000 refugees were living inside the hospital. They were scared, they were really desperate. And the only safe haven for them was the hospital. And that was another reason why the genocidal regime decides to bomb these hospitals, not because there's Hamas inside it, or like they found weapons behind the MRI at al-Shifa hospital at one point. None of that, none of that – propaganda.

I worked in these hospitals. These hospitals are very professional. They're one of the most compassionate hospitals in the world. They care about the people, they let the people stay. 35,000 people were living together with the patients, together with the doctors. I was working around them. I was literally like looking at them every day and towards the end I became like

friends with the families, like friends with Amar who was like cooking some food every day. And then it smells nice, and I keep telling her and joking with her, it smells nice, and always invites me and all of that. But these are the kind of things that are happening over there. And in the middle of that, the first step and when I walked into the hospital, I had this fear that, I don't know if I will be very helpful in an environment like that. But the minute I stepped inside the hospital and I saw the amount of people, the amount of need, it was like the exact description of it is: oceans of need. And it's really crazy. Like I remember myself standing in the ER counter. And when I was standing there, I had a wave of people, like 300 people talking to me at the same time, and I'm not exaggerating with the number. And they have major needs, small needs, like all kinds of needs. People who lost their healthcare, they don't know what's going on. People who lost their – the entire healthcare system is disseminated. Hospitals are bombed. They don't have doctors. They don't know where to go. People who have chemotherapy to get and they don't know where to get it from. People who have like simple operations, they don't know how to do it because all of the operations are only held for the mass casualties. And then in the middle of that you find some social problems like for example at that time there was a chance where the families of the injured people can actually go through a Rafah Crossing to other countries like Qatar, Dubai, or the United Arab Emirates or other countries so they can get treatment. I had this person who comes to me with his burned little daughter, like all over her face and then all over her head and all over her body and she's wrapped with this white gauze, and she was like the most beautiful angel you'll ever see, despite her burns, that are covering her face, her entire face is burned. And I wanted to touch her hands, so that I can maybe give her a little comfort, and then she was just very intimidated and very scared, because that's what happens when you're traumatized. That's what's happening to the kids of Gaza, 50% of them wishing to die. And the other 50% are thinking that death is imminent. And so I talked to him, I talked to the father and then I say: "What is your need?" And then he says: "The Israeli government gave the permission for her to get treatment and then a permission to the mom, but the mom is breastfeeding another baby. And they didn't give permission for the child, for the second child to go with her." And this is the kind of mind-playing games that the genocidal regime also does: Okay, we'll give you a chance to go, but we'll only give it to you only, and we will give it to your son. What about the baby? They wouldn't do it, and they wouldn't accept the other baby. So what happens is that, you know, the father now can't get treatment for his daughter. Instead, he wants to change it to his name in order for him to go over there with his daughter to get the treatment.

In addition to obviously the regular things that we see in the ER, which is in mass amounts because of the destruction of the healthcare system, you also are bombarded with mass casualties like three, four times a day. So I will be sitting in the ER, standing, helping people, and then I'll have a wave of patients brought by the emergency medical services over there, and they'll just lie them flat on the floor, and then they'll leave, and then for you to deal with them. And then they come in, in tens of patients. And then these patients are just in extremely dangerous and critical condition. And the first mass casualty that I've seen was within one hour of me arriving at the ER. So after, after this one hour, I came across this mass casualty where I was like looking at patients and then trying to figure out who is alive, who is dead

and who is about to die. My emergency medicine instinct kicked in, and then I just have to go to my basics, because these injuries are not textbook, you find people that are like shot in the head, people that from the explosive injuries, they can't breathe, because also the kinds of bombs, and this is something I learned over there, the kinds of bombs that they use are either extremely old or they're extremely sophisticated like the bombs they will drop on the people and they will suction the air and then after that they will explode and when they do explode the air comes in inside the lungs and explodes the lungs. So these are the kinds of injuries that we see in addition to obviously the amputations and the entire thigh is about to fall apart and it's just intact by a really a thread of skin on both sides. All these kinds of injuries were really unconscionable. I have never seen something like that in my entire life, in my entire career as an emergency medicine physician. I deal with trauma, I deal with gunshot wounds, I deal with all kinds of problems, but these things, Dimitri, I can tell you this, they're scary, they're really scary. Like even to me as an emergency medicine physician. I was trying to hide my fear, but I was scared. I was competent, but at the same time, I was just like seeing these scenes and I'm like, my God, this is insane. I can tell you about this mass casualty that I've seen where I had to run around the patients and then put a chest needle in one of the patients and then go to the second patient who had both lungs collapsed and then I had put a chest tube in both sides, and while all of that on the floor, there are no beds and in between people. So you can imagine the amount of chaos over there. At that time, that hospital, the European hospital where I was, was the only functional hospital in the entire Gaza Strip.

So in between these patients I came across a ten-year-old boy and by the way 99% of these casualties are all children and I rarely saw an adult male, maybe a senior citizen, but other than that, that's it. It's either both sides of the spectrum, either the older men and women or the children. And the children were the majority of cases and these mass casualties, sadly. And I came across this ten-year-old boy and then I saw him gasping for air. And I went and tried to listen to his lungs and then you still can see him gasping for air but his heart stopped. So I initiated CPR and then the nurses behind me and the ICU team told me: "No doctor, we can't do CPR." And I said, why? They said, "because we don't have beds, we don't have ventilators." And I was kind of shocked from what I heard, but I just kept doing the CPR and they kept telling me, "please no CPR, this is an unsurvivable injury and he's not gonna survive, so please let him go." So I just looked at them and I was in shock and I just went back, I went out of the ER and I was torn like, you know, how can I do that as an emergency medicine doctor? This is what I was trained to do. So I went back and then I started doing the CPR. And then they told me, "please no CPR. Like we can't deal with this child." So, I left that child and he passed away, and I just keep seeing him all the time – I'm sorry. It's very sad. This is a story that happened over and over and over again, every single day when I was there. You can tell from the videos that you see online, how these casualties are just like in critical conditions. And the essence of emergency medicine is to really, really help these people. That's what I got trained for. And when you can't help them just because there are no supplies, there are no ventilators, and then there are no simple things centralized, like intubation kits and everything like that, it's just insane. It's like, how can the world look at this and just stay silent? And how can the world just look at it as like an endless show with

episodes for like nine months and 12 months and all of that and just doesn't budge? It's just very sad.

**DL:** Did you see signs, Dr., when you were serving in the European hospital that the Israeli forces were intentionally targeting children?

**DD:** 100%, all of these mass casualties, they constitute a genocide 100% and they constitute an intention to kill. These mass casualties come in numbers and then they come all in kids. How are these numbers only children? How is that possible? When you have a mass casualty of seven children together and they're all burned with like with facial burns and the entire body? And this is one of the mass casualties that I was in, I had these six kids that came in and then they're all burned and they were all babies, they're all less than a year or two years old. And they were all on the floor and I was walking around them and I thought that I'm in a nightmare. And then during that time we were helping the kids we called the ICU team, we also called the group that came in with us from the United States to come over immediately because of this unimaginable mass casualty and they all came in and then they all helped, every team helped a child. And then I was walking in between them, Dimitri, and I was shocked. I was really shocked by the amount of injuries. And then these injuries are just inhalation injuries and all kinds of injuries, and then these patients are extremely difficult to intubate. Their epiglottis is all edematous, and in order for you to place a tube in their throat so that they can breathe, you'll have a very lucky shot to really intubate them. And then I was horrified with the edematous epiglottis and then I managed to intubate one of the children. And then we called the whole international community through Al Jazeera and through a lot of the news outlets at that time, and we sent them to the ICU and unfortunately nobody responded and they all died. They all died. And these are the injuries you see. So tell me, tell me when you see all these kinds of kids, and then when you see a child who was shot in the head in an X-ray, and then you see a child who was shot in the chest in an X-ray, how is that not intentional killing?

**DL:** So let's talk now about your decision to go to Gaza on the Freedom Flotilla. What vessel were you on in October and who else was with you on that vessel?

**DD:** So on that vessel we went on the Conscience Flotilla. The Conscience Flotilla is a flotilla that left from Otranto and we stayed in Rome and then we went to Otranto and then after that from Otranto we left over there through the sea. We sailed for eight days over there on the Conscience Flotilla. The Conscious Flotilla, the whole entire flotilla was designed so that we can bring the world's attention to the targeting of healthcare workers and journalists. So half of the flotillas were journalists and the other half were healthcare workers.

**Speaker Conscious Flotilla:** We are the healthcare workers on board the conscience on our way to Gaza. We woke up this morning to find that one of our colleagues from MSF had been killed in Gaza. Omar Hayek is his name and he will not be forgotten by us. Neither will the 13 who were killed before him be forgotten. We are bringing symbolically and physically aid and hope and courage to our colleagues who remain in Gaza. I am going to now hand over to the leader of our group, Dr. Fauziah.

**Dr. Fauziah:** We, the healthcare workers on the board of the Conscience, demand the world to give us the safe passage as the Geneva Convention give protection to all the healthcare workers of the world in whatever circumstances, even in Gaza when the genocide is raging on. Free Free Palestine!

**DD:** And like I said, we wanted, we brought aid with us as well. We had anesthesia, we had baby formula. Surprisingly the genocidal regime also tries to not allow this baby formula to enter into Gaza for the same exact reason, Dimitri, which is to prevent fertility, to prevent these kids from growing and to die at an early stage of their lives, which is the most critical stage. And just to mention to you, Dimitri, you know, the latest United Nations report mentioned that the preterm labor and also the low weight birth labor have risen by 70%. So 70% of these births are for prematures and also for low birth weight. So these babies really need some nutrition and the nutrition does not come from the mother sadly because the mothers also are malnourished. It comes from baby formula that we brought with us that a lot of doctors brought with them through Karem Abu Salem, which is now the new crossing where the medical missions can go through. And the baby formula is the first thing to be confiscated from them and taken away from them to prevent this kind of good thing from happening to these little babies at their early stage. So we decided to raise this awareness and we decided to bring aid and we decided to break the siege. And we decided to come to Gaza, to tell the world, it is very sad that us, the civilians, normal people, and I'm not like an extra ordinary and then the people who were with me, they're like just normal people who decided to go, and then they were so sick of what they're seeing for the past two years of this genocide and continuous genocide and brutal and vindictus, and it's just like extremely sad, and then so we decided to go.

**DL:** When the pirates, the ones who claim to be soldiers, showed up, what happened to the vessel and did they give you any explanation for why they were boarding the vessel and why they were kidnapping you?

**DD:** They mentioned to the captain of the ship, they said that you have entered Israel in an illegal way and you have to turn back or to give us the the aid through the proper channels, which we know that they will never go, otherwise you are going to face serious consequences. Obviously at that time we didn't hear anything. Later on I heard the recording, but what we heard was basically the alarm going on that this is not a drill – because we used to do drills for the same purpose as to minimize mass casualties as you know, the genocidal regime is well known for causing harm for healthcare workers and for aids and for international aids who are coming to help the Gazan people like what happened in the 2008 flotilla, the Mavi Marmara, when 50 people were injured and nine people were killed on the flotilla that were trying to help people of Gaza and they did the same exact thing. So, we wanted to show that we're peaceful, we're not here to cause anybody harm, and we were a group of doctors. So, how more peaceful can it be?! I even had my white jacket on because I had an interview, and when the alarm went on, we all went to the top of the ship. We were in life jackets. And we were staying in assigned seats for us so that we can make sure that we're all protected and that we're all unharmed, and if there's any problem, it can be solved without

the need for a killing. And they came in with their helicopters, sure enough. And then they swarmed the entire place. And then it was really a scary scene. It was like a hurricane, you know, wind and water and we're on the top of the ship and we were all scared and we are all like, this is crazy. This is crazy, it's just insane. And then they all came in on the top of the ship and then they went down from the helicopter on top of the ship, pointing their laser guns at us and all of that, intimidating us. And then after that, they went into the ship for a couple of hours searching and destroying and doing what they are best at doing, which is destruction. We later on looked at the ship. It was just destroyed. And then they came to us and then they took us into the room. They separated Huwaida, who is the organizer, Huwaida Arraf, who was the organizer and the co-founder of the flotilla. She was sailing since 2008, a well-known figure, a Palestinian-American lawyer and an activist in human rights and an amazing woman, to be honest with you, like one of the best people I've ever met on the flotilla, in addition to obviously all of them, who are just like one of best of the humanity. Just to mention some of them, we had an Italian guy by the name of Vincenzo. Vincenzo was active since 2013 in Gaza and he established the first magazine in Gaza. And he witnessed a lot of his co-workers die in the West Bank and also in Gaza, and it's just a very sad thing. It's a very sad thing. It doesn't matter for the genocidal regime, as long as you are a Palestinian or helping a Palestinian then you are an eminent threat to them. And you being a Palestinian and breathing air as a Palestinian you're just a dangerous thing to their existence. And it's kind of true because we, as Palestinians, we are a landmark. We are basically there to tell them that we existed before you and this land is ours and it's not a surprise to them that we're a threat to them. And then we are. And I'm not gonna deny that because we, the Palestinians, lived in this land, we ate from the olives of this land. We were in this land and we will return to this land. So we are definitely a threat to them and I want them to know that we are a threat to you.

**DL:** What happened then when they took you into occupied Palestine? What were conditions like in this prison that you spent three days in and how did they treat you?

**DD:** So after they put us in one room they escorted the ship to Ashdod port and at Ashdod port the party began. You know, like humiliation, verbal abuse, beating, all kinds of abuse. They took us into this area which was filthy and full of urine, smell. We sat on it for like a couple of hours on our knees and then bending downwards and you're not allowed to look anywhere. And I can tell you it was like one of the worst experiences, one of the scariest experiences I've ever had. We were there, intimidated, threatened and all of that. "Why did you come here? You should have stayed there in America. Welcome to hell." And they got me a bracelet that is from one of my comrades, it says Free Palestine and then they put it in front of me and they said, "Do you want this?" Meaning, do you want to free Palestine? And then they asked us to say: I love Israel, I hate Palestine; all kinds of verbal abuse. And then they came in and like I said I had my jacket next to me, they had me take it off because it would have been like a bad PR to them because there were like people who are taking pictures and I think they were from the Israeli side obviously, from the Israeli newspapers and then they asked me and they said: "Oh, do you know a Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya?" You know trying to intimidate me in a way like to insinuate that my fate is going to be like some Abu

Safiya who is like the head of the Kamal Adwan hospital, the CEO of the Kamal Adwan hospital who was abducted again and placed in prison for right now for eight or nine months straight and nobody knows anything about him. And then he had a famous video where Ben-Gvir came to his cell and threatened him and abused him. It's just very sad.

But this is what happens to every Palestinian. This is what happened to all of the prisoners. And Ben-Gvir said it, like treat the flotilla people like terrorists. And they sure did. They treated us like terrorists. They placed their hands on my neck the whole entire time in the airport. And then they made sure that I'm humiliated. They see T-shirts within my bag with Palestine on it and they throw it in the garbage and they are like, Oh, Doctor, this is Israel, no, Palestine. They throw it in the garbage and all of that. And it's just all kinds of intimidation and all kinds of making your life miserable that you came in here so that you never come back to this place. And not only that, it will be a lesson to everybody who is coming back. But they don't understand that, you know these things, they only make us stronger.

And then I go inside the airport and I see Nadia Daka, who is one of the lawyers over there for Adalah. She's a famous lawyer in Palestine, belongs to an organization called Adalah, Adalah is designed to help the Palestinian prisoners over there to defend them and also to register any kind of human rights violations, and she does have a show that has aired recently on Al Jazeera, which shows how like serious the Palestinian prisoners are being treated and in a very inhumane way, like all kinds of torture. But anyways, they took in a bus, blindfolded us, and then zip-tied us to the back. And then they put us in a sub-zero temperature with air blowing like crazy. We were shivering and we were just sticking together. And it's just, again, another form of intimidation and also torture for you until we reached al-Naqab desert where we were placed in a prison called Ketziot, again, a well-known prison for human rights violations designed for the prisoners from Gaza to stay there and being tortured there. And the minute we went out of the prison, we also had another welcoming from the prison guards with beating, with all kinds of names, with all kinds intimidation and they placed us in a cage and I can tell you the prison over there, it's a no-joke, it's a very serious prison. It's a very scary prison, a very scary place to be in. Just being there is just like you are disconnected from life and if you don't know anybody that will ask about you, like somebody powerful, like governments, you're forgotten for a very long time. And that was one of the scariest things that we faced, which is basically the sense or like that I've seen as part of me being a Palestinian prisoner, which is facing what all Palestinian prisoners face, which is uncertainty. That feeling is really scary, Dimitri, really scary. And then I was like, here I am, I'm a doctor, I'm civilian, I'm in the middle of the desert in this scary prison and then you're being yelled at by guards and intimidated and then they put us in a cage, all of us, like 20 people at a time, put us in this scary cage and then hit us with the sticks and all of that and calling us names. And then they speak Arabic and then they cuss at us in Arabic because we look like Arabic people. And it's just scary. It was really scary. And they went and they stripped searched us and then they gave us their suit, which is the same suit that you see for the Palestinian prisoners. And then they took us, each five of us, to a cell. And the cell was warm or hot, but it was like the best feeling I've ever had. I was shivering for hours from the experience, from the cold weather, from the cold bus, from the horror that we've seen since the confiscation of

the ship in the middle of the international waters. That's by itself, Dimitri, illegal and against international law, against the Geneva Convention, which protects the health care workers and protects the humanitarian aid people from being harmed by any kind of conflict. So imagine, the Israeli genocidal regime doing that and God forbid anybody can say something, no, nobody said anything about it. No, none of the governments said anything.

**DL:** So to your knowledge, did the US government do anything to protect your rights and to help you get out of that hell hole of a dungeon?

**DD:** So I'll be honest with you, I was very surprised. I was surprised to see the American consulate coming in because they didn't come in in the previous flotillas. They didn't even dare to come. And that's one of the things that I always tell the American people, that the Israeli government and the Israelis, they don't care about you. You think that you're very sympathetic to their cause, which is creating their own government and they flee prosecution and all of this propaganda that they spread and instead of them stealing the lands of the Palestinian people. You would think they will understand but unfortunately they don't understand, and me being a witness of this horror, I was just shocked like how is the government of the United States sending billions and billions of dollars to this genocidal regime to kill kids and torture people and torture doctors who are coming to help and aid the Palestinians?! And yet they come in and they also abuse the consulate of the United States. The consulate of the United States came in and I was telling them and I was yelling at them and I said: "You go to the President and you tell him this happened and that happened. And then you tell him, this is the country that you are sending billions of dollars and aid them in their genocide and all of that and this is what they're doing to your citizens." And then they're scared. The consulate, they're scared, like this is not our duty to do this. Our duty is to tell the ambassador Mike Huckabee. And then Mike Huckabee is a hawk for this genocidal regime. He's a very useless man, unfortunately, that we have in our government, in the United States government, and it's very sad to see. And then the guards were intimidating him. They were telling him, "We told you 20 minutes." And he was like, "Just give me two more minutes", and he was scared of them.

**DL:** You're talking about Huckabee himself?

**DD:** No, no, the American consulate representative, it was not Huckabee. No, the American consulate themselves, they were really scared to really talk to us and they were intimidated by the prison guards. And then you wonder who is governing who and who is controlling who. And that's a very sad reality. And we told him we were on a hunger strike because they were like basically preventing us from getting medications for people. On our flotilla we had this 68 year old man, an amazing man, he just put two stents in his heart about a couple of months ago and he decided to come in a flotilla and then we talked to him and we're like why are you doing that? You're going on this dangerous mission and you might not come back. And his answer was like, I came into peace with myself that this is one of the things that I want to do for the people in Gaza. Such an amazing man and amazing people that you meet over there. You meet like this surgeon who just didn't even finish his residency and surgery. He's just one month shy from finishing his residency. And I can tell you, residency is one of the roughest

things a doctor goes through; intense training and intense experience. And then that, you just want to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But instead he just left everything and he came in on this dangerous mission. We got a 29-year-old Irish, Fian. He's a 29-year-old Irish journalist, 29. And then we celebrated his 30th birthday on the ship. And instead of him going with his friends and enjoying his time and all of that, he just decided to come in. And many more, like this Iranian PhD in statistics and biostatistics, and she came in with us. And then she said that she sat with her family gathered at a dinner table and in all of them they decided one of them has to go from their family. And every single one of them shared his positives and negatives. And then they decided to send this lady, Nima, an amazing person, an amazing family. Like the whole entire family decided to send somebody on this flotilla. Such amazing people, to be honest with you, and many more. Like we had doctors who came in multiple times to Gaza and then later on they were forbidden from going into Gaza. And that's one of the things that we as health care workers wanted to raise, is that we're unable to go rescue people, we are unable to do what we're supposed to do as doctors. The genocidal regime is preventing us from doing that. And the essence for me the essence for emergency medicine is actually to prevent mass casualties, witnessing these mass casualties on a daily basis is not the solution, Dimitri. I've been seeing these mass casualties, I think, I've probably witnessed close to 20 or 30 mass casualties when I was there. One of the worst things, one of the worst experiences of my life. So to prevent these mass casualties, the problem in these mass casualties, the problem in Gaza is the occupation. And in going there, we had to end the siege, end the occupation by this way. And we're not gonna sit there and just wait for the genocidal regime to send us more and more and more of these mass casualties every single day.

**DL:** Now, you were not born in the United States, right?

**DD:** No.

**DD:** You're a naturalized US citizen. And in the current political environment, Dr. Daoud, doing what you've done in defense of the Palestinian cause as a naturalized US citizen of Palestinian origin, that's kind of risky in the world in which you now live under the Trump administration. Have you yourself been subjected to any kind of threats, implicit or explicit threats by the authorities in the United States as a result of your work for the Palestinian cause?

**DD:** So, you know, I can tell you this, Dimitri, liberation doesn't come without a cost. And you have to sacrifice. The Palestinians, the Arabs, everybody, the whole entire world has to understand that, it has to come to an agreement on that. If you don't sacrifice, if you don't have a sacrifice in your job, if you don't have a sacrifice in your time, if you don't have a sacrifice with your family, if you don't have a sacrifice with yourself or by yourself, this liberation and freedom is not going to happen. All of us have to come to an agreement. And I sat with my wife, I sat with my kids and I said the same exact words. Before I went to the flotilla I bought my son a lunch and then that was the day before and I sat with him And I said: "I'm going to this dangerous trip and then I might not come back. And I want you to be strong and I want to continue what I'm doing." And you know what he told me, Dimitri? He

told me: "Dad, if you come back, the year after, I don't care if I'm ten or eleven or 12 or 13, when you go back, I wanna go back with you." So this is the kind of generation that we have to really raise. This is the kind of generation that we really have to indoctrinate in them that sacrifice is a must in order to liberate our countries. And none of the countries around the world had their liberation without a cost. Yes, it's a hefty cost. And yes, it is a very sad cost. But it has to be made. It has to be made. Other than that liberation is not going to come. And yes, intimidation from the United States government will happen and if it doesn't happen now, it will happen later on. And then they'll dig in your past they'll dig in your future, they'll dig in your present, they'll dig everywhere so that they can find something about you and smear your reputation and smear you and label you, you're an anti-semitic or an anti-this or anti-that. And we're not anti-Semitic, Dimitri. We love the Jews. We love the Christians. We loved the Muslims. We love everybody. The only people who hate all of us are the Zionists. They even hate Jews. They hate the religious Jews. And they intimidate everybody. They're scary people, they're psychopaths. If I have to really describe it, they are real psychopaths. And we were living together, us, the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims for thousands of years, we had no problems. We had no problem until the Zionists came in and they came in with the Judaism label and the star of David on their flag and then they mixed their religion together with Zionism and then they labeled Judaism as Israel and the love to Judaism comes through the love of Israel. And then they poisoned the people's mind and it's very sad. They poisoned not only the American people, but they also poisoned the Jewish community in the United States. But luckily, the Jewish community, especially the young people, are right now witnessing a, I would say, awakening. And for example, the Jewish Foundation, Jewish Voice Foundation, they are very active against this genocide and they are extremely supportive. And then you saw what happened in the Grand Central Station where the Jewish people came in and then they protested over there. It was just a heartwarming feeling to see our brothers and sisters, the Jewish brothers and sisters standing by us, and in saying, not in our name.

But to answer your question, I've been stopped at the airport. I've been asked about Gaza by Homeland Security in JFK for like an hour. And then I almost missed my second flight, but I had to tell them, I can't be here. I really have to go. And they couldn't find anything because we're just doctors trying to help. What are you trying to find? And really, that's who we are. We are just a bunch of doctors who are trying to really help the people of Gaza. And that's what we saw; people who are dead and dying and mass casualties and people shot in the head, shot in the chest and all of that. It's a very sad scene.

**DD:** Well, you've summarized, Dr. Daoud, why we call this program Reason2Resist, it's because freedom cannot be achieved without sacrifice. So on that, I'd like to thank you on that note for joining us today and sharing with us these extraordinary and painful experiences that you've had in defense of the Palestine cause. And, you know, we honor your sacrifice, sir. Thank you very much.

**DD:** Thank you. Thank you so much, Dimitri. I'm honestly honored to be one of the people who went to Gaza and tried to break the siege a second time. It's an honor for me and anything I do for Gaza and anything anybody does for Gaza or any kind of harm that comes

from helping Gaza should be placed as a badge of honor in every single person that does it and people should not be intimidated should not be feeling bad or even feel like they can't do much no every single thing that you do for Gaza is a badge of honor on your chest until the end of the days.

**DD:** And wear it proudly. Thank you so much, Dr. Daoud. So we're coming to you today from Montreal, Quebec on November 10th, 2025. Thank you very much.

**DL:** I appreciate it. Thank you.

**END**

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